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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JACKY ROSEN, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, although we cannot see You with our eyes or touch You with our hands, we have experienced the reality of Your might and majesty. Every time we hear a newborn baby cry or touch a leaf or see the sky, we know why we believe.

Lord, send Your spirit to fill the hearts of our Senators. As they journey toward eternity, may they walk, Lord, this day on the path You have provided. Give them a passion to glorify You in their thoughts, words, and deeds. Provide them with the wisdom to embrace truth, honor, gentleness, and humility.

We pray in Your righteous Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, June 17, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JACKY ROSEN, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Ms. ROSEN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, ever since Democrats passed the Affordable Care Act, expanding health coverage and access to tens of millions of Americans, we have had to fight tooth and nail to preserve the law from partisan Republican attacks.

For more than a decade, the assault on our healthcare law was relentless from Republicans in Congress, from the executive branch itself and from Republican attorneys general in the courts. In a landmark vote, we in the Senate prevented the Republicans from repealing the ACA in 2017.

Each time, in each arena, the Affordable Care Act has prevailed, and once again today, the U.S. Supreme Court, in a 7-to-2 ruling, upheld the Affordable Care Act in the face of another legal challenge. So let me say definitively: The Affordable Care Act has won. The Supreme Court has just ruled. The ACA is here to stay.

And now we are going to try to make it bigger and better—establish once and for all affordable healthcare as a basic right of every American citizen.

What a day.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on another issue, infrastructure, despite a consensus in Washington that America needs more investment in our infrastructure, it has been decades since Congress passed a stand-alone bill to address the issue. This Congress is working hard to remedy that fact.

As I have repeated, discussions about infrastructure are moving forward along two tracks. One is bipartisan, and the second deals with components of the American jobs and families plan, which we will consider even if it lacks bipartisan support—though, I would note that a recent poll showed that President Biden's infrastructure and family plan is broadly popular. Nearly 70 percent of Americans support President Biden's infrastructure plan. More than 60 percent support additional support for American families.

Now, despite some overdramatized punditry, the truth is both tracks are moving forward very well, and both tracks need each other. So we want to work with our Republican colleagues on infrastructure where we have common ground, and Democrats believe we have other priorities that the Senate must consider above and beyond a bipartisan infrastructure bill, not the least of which is addressing the urgent challenge of climate change.

Yesterday, I convened all 11 Members of the Senate Budget Committee to discuss the reconciliation track. And today, I will convene the group of Democrats negotiating with Republicans to discuss the bipartisan track. We set up the two tracks about a month ago. Each is proceeding along, and the two tracks are parallel, working in concert, progressing well.

### VOTING RIGHTS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on voting rights, now we are here on the precipice of a momentous debate here in the Senate. Last night, I began the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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